

Agency Legislative Budget

The following table summarizes the total legislative budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Agency Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2004	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2006	New Proposals Fiscal 2006	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2007	New Proposals Fiscal 2007	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2007	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 06-07
FTE	39.00	0.00	0.00	39.00	0.00	0.00	39.00	39.00
Personal Services	2,192,162	87,689	0	2,279,851	86,517	0	2,278,679	4,558,530
Operating Expenses	491,108	82,517	0	573,625	22,875	0	513,983	1,087,608
Total Costs	\$2,683,270	\$170,206	\$0	\$2,853,476	\$109,392	\$0	\$2,792,662	\$5,646,138
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State/Other Special	2,669,538	170,206	0	2,839,744	109,392	0	2,778,930	5,618,674
Federal Special	13,732	0	0	13,732	0	0	13,732	27,464
Total Funds	\$2,683,270	\$170,206	\$0	\$2,853,476	\$109,392	\$0	\$2,792,662	\$5,646,138

Page Reference

Legislative Budget Analysis, D-59

Executive Budget Comparison

The following table compares the legislative budget for the 2007 biennium to the budget requested by the Governor, by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Executive Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2004	Executive Budget Fiscal 2006	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2006	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2006	Executive Budget Fiscal 2007	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2007	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2007	Biennium Difference Fiscal 06-07
FTE	39.00	39.00	39.00	0.00	39.00	39.00	0.00	
Personal Services	2,192,162	2,279,851	2,279,851	0	2,278,679	2,278,679	0	0
Operating Expenses	491,108	658,125	573,625	(84,500)	498,483	513,983	15,500	(69,000)
Total Costs	\$2,683,270	\$2,937,976	\$2,853,476	(\$84,500)	\$2,777,162	\$2,792,662	\$15,500	(\$69,000)
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State/Other Special	2,669,538	2,924,244	2,839,744	(84,500)	2,763,430	2,778,930	15,500	(69,000)
Federal Special	13,732	13,732	13,732	0	13,732	13,732	0	0
Total Funds	\$2,683,270	\$2,937,976	\$2,853,476	(\$84,500)	\$2,777,162	\$2,792,662	\$15,500	(\$69,000)

The legislative budget is \$69,000 lower than the executive budget for the biennium because the legislature did not approve an increase in consultant funds.

Agency Highlights

Public Service Regulation Major Budget Highlights	
♦	The overall budget increases by \$280,000 for the 2007 biennium compared to the FY 2004 base budget, due primarily to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide adjustments Computer replacement

Funding

The Public Service Regulation program is funded primarily by state special revenue that consists of a constitutionally earmarked fee levied on all regulated entities under its jurisdiction. This fee is levied quarterly. The amount raised by the fee must equal the amount appropriated to the commission by the legislature for a particular year. Fees are deposited directly into a state special revenue account. Sections 69-1-401 through 403, MCA discuss how the fee is calculated, applied, and collected. Fees are based upon a percentage of the gross revenues from all entities regulated by the Public Service Commission for a calendar quarter of operation. Minor amounts of funding are from federal funds that come from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding source supports the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety program.

Present Law Adjustments

The "Present Law Adjustments" table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget adopted by the legislature. "Statewide Present Law" adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Legislative decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2006-----						-----Fiscal 2007-----				
FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds		FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services				162,708						161,548
Vacancy Savings				(75,019)						(75,031)
Inflation/Deflation				(5,031)						(4,958)
Fixed Costs				21,469						548
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments				\$104,127						\$82,107
DP 1 - Computer Replacement										
0.00	0	48,274	0	48,274		0.00	0	4,095	0	4,095
DP 2 - Travel/Training										
0.00	0	7,500	0	7,500		0.00	0	7,500	0	7,500
DP 4 - Building Rent										
0.00	0	10,305	0	10,305		0.00	0	15,690	0	15,690
Total Other Present Law Adjustments										
0.00	\$0	\$66,079	\$0	\$66,079		0.00	\$0	\$27,285	\$0	\$27,285
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments				\$170,206						\$109,392

DP 1 - Computer Replacement - The legislature approved state special revenue to fund the replacement of 26 desktop and 6 laptop computers and 1 server in FY 2006 and 7 desktop computers and 1 laptop computer in FY 2007. These computer replacements are based on a four-year replacement cycle. The legislature approved this authority as restricted and one-time-only.

DP 2 - Travel/Training - The legislature approved an increase in the department's travel and training budget of \$7,500 in each year of the biennium. This increase would be used to fund two items. First, it would fund travel and training for three new commissioners who came on board on January 1, 2005. Commissioners without a regulatory background usually attend training, which is not available in Montana. This travel and training is in addition to their normal travel and training. The amount related to this budget item is \$4,000 in each fiscal year and was identified by the legislature as one-time-only authority. Secondly, this decision package would fund travel by the commission to fulfill its responsibility to monitor and participate in the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). The RTO is a regional organization that is studying ways to effectively combine transmission facilities that are currently managed by many entities in various states into one entity that is managed by the region. The amount of this budget item is \$3,500 in each fiscal year.

DP 4 - Building Rent - The legislature approved state special revenue funds to cover increases in office rent of \$10,305 in FY 2006 and \$15,690 in FY 2007. These increases are based upon a provision in a long-term contract negotiated by the Department of Administration that inflates the rent cost by 3 percent each year. The rental agreement began in 1991 and terminates in 2011.